

## Message Text

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70

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R 221735Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1572

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC

SUBJECT: PROGRESSIVE PARTY FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT

THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S 16TH NATIONAL CONVENTION NOVEMBER 17-19  
ISSUED FOLLOWING FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY STATEMENT PUBLISHED  
TODAY:

(BEGIN QUOTE)

THE PARTY CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES THAT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
ICELAND SHOULD FOLLOW AN INDEPENDENT POLICY, AIMED AT INSURING  
THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY. ON THE  
INTERNATIONAL SCENE. ICELAND SIDES WITH THOSE NATIONS THAT WANT  
TO HELP THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND  
EQUAL RIGHTS WITH THE RICHER NATIONS. CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD  
MUST BE EASED, AND WE MUST STRIVE FOR RECONCILIATION AND THE  
LONG-SOUGHT WORLD PEACE, WITH INCREASED UNDERSTANDING AMONG  
NATIONS AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT. THERE SHALL BE ESPECIALLY CLOSE  
TIES WITH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND STRENGTHENED PARTICIPATION BY  
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ICELAND IN THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY REITERATES ITS PREVIOUS POLICY IN DEFENSE AND SECURITY MATTERS (UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, ICELAND SHOULD BE A PARTY TO DEFENSE COOPERATION AMONG THE WESTERN NATIONS, BUT REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE RESERVATIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF ICELANDERS WHEN THEY BECAME MEMBERS OF NATO TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO ARMED FORCE HERE IN PEACETIME, THAT IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY UP TO ICELANDERS TO DETERMINE WHEN THERE WOULD BE A FOREIGN DEFENSE FORCE HERE, AND THAT ICELANDERS HAVE NO ARMED FORCE AND DO NOT INTEND TO ESTABLISH ANY. ACCORDING TO THOSE RESERVATIONS AND CONSISTENT WITH THE FOREGOING, THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY WILL WORK FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE DEFENSE FORCE IN STAGES) THOUGH AT THIS TIME THERE IS INSUFFICIENT PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

THERE IS A THREAT TO THE MENTALITY AND SELF-AWARENESS OF ICELANDERS FROM THE PROLONGED STAY OF A FOREIGN ARMED FORCE IN THE COUNTRY. THEREFORE, THE LEADERS OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY SHOULD BE THANKED FOR ADVOCATING THE LIMITING OF THE US TELEVISION TRANSMISSION FROM KEFLAVIK AND THE STEPS TAKEN TO SEPARATE IT FROM THE ICELANDIC NATIONAL LIFE. THE CONVENTION BELIEVES THAT THOSE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE EXECUTION OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT ARE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND CONSIDERS IT RIGHT THAT DISCUSSIONS ON DEFENSE MATTERS BE CONTINUED, ALWAYS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF WHAT IS BEST FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ICELANDERS. THE CONVENTION URGES THE LEADERS AND MEDIA OF THE PARTY TO FIGHT AGAINST ALL EFFORTS TO PERPETUATE THE INFLUENCE OF THE ARMY IN ICELANDIC NATIONAL LIFE. (END QUOTE)  
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